

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
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OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

March 27, 2014

Dr. Douglas MacAyeal
University of Chicago
Department of the Geophysical Sciences
5734 S. Ellis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Dr. MacAyeal:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Polar Programs (PLR) Arctic Programs, which was held September 16 – 17, 2013. I am grateful for your committee's thorough and valuable analysis of these programs.

I am deeply appreciative of the time that very busy people like yourself have committed to helping NSF and the research community, not only in providing a retrospective of the performance of the review process but also a thoughtful analysis of the selected programs strengths and challenges. We understand that the committee worked hard before, during and after the formal meeting.

I am of course pleased that the committee was able to strongly acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Program Officers in handling the review process, review analysis and communication with the research community who have submitted proposals. We also very much appreciate your findings and recommendations that will help guide improvements in the work of our Arctic programs. The Arctic Section has prepared a response that will be discussed with the GEO Advisory Committee, our COV's parent body.

I am also aware that your committee faced several unforeseen personal and logistical challenges, in part due to our experiment with using a hybrid in-person and remote format, and we appreciate your committee's hard work and resilience in completing your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Wakimoto".

Roger Wakimoto
Assistant Director

Enclosure

Cc: COV Members
Louise Kellogg, AC/GEO Chair